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ISRAEL-LEBANON
Talking Points for the DCI
(As of 1400 EDT, 15 September 1982)

Political Situation

Lebanon's political situation remains uncertain today following yesterday's assassination of president-elect Bashir Jumayyil. His death has raised numerous constitutional questions and procedures for securing a smooth succession are vague. Fighting between Israeli troops and Lebanese leftists in West Beirut is continuing. [REDACTED]

-- Deputy Speaker of the Parliament Munir Abu Fadil has said that new elections will be called before the expiration of President Sarkis' term on September 23. [REDACTED]

-- The security situation in Beirut may make it difficult for the deputies to gather. Israeli presence at strategic points within the city might facilitate the gathering of a quorum for an election, although many deputies will be angered at once again meeting under Israeli guns. [REDACTED]

-- The Phalange can be expected to go on the offensive to insure their own candidate gains the presidency. They are probably in no mood for compromise with other traditional Maronite leaders, such as Camille Shamun. [REDACTED]

-- Bashir's brother Amin is probably the favorite now, but many Bashir loyalists may not favor Amin because he represents old-style clan politics and lacks Bashir's charisma. [REDACTED]

-- Phalange Party founder Pierre Jumayyil has come out of retirement to take charge of party affairs. He may hope to pave the way for Amin to win wider party recognition as its new leader. [REDACTED]

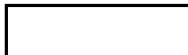
-- If it proves impossible for the party to agree on Amin or another strong candidate, Pierre could offer himself as a compromise. Pierre is in poor health, however, and his candidacy might be a signal of serious divisions developing within the Phalange. [REDACTED]

Military Situation

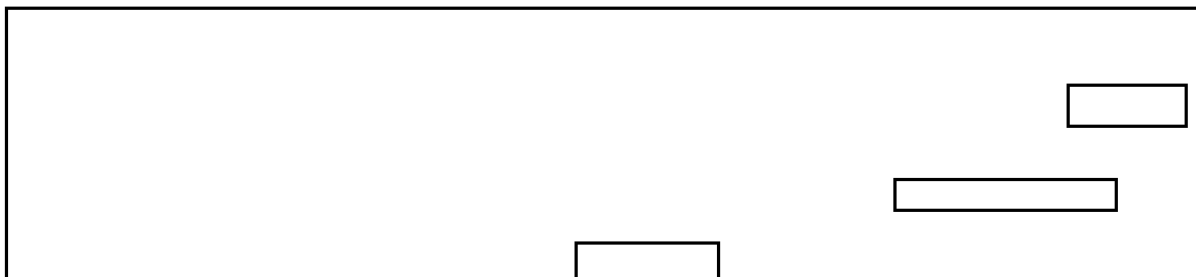
[REDACTED] Israeli units had advanced as far north as the Summerland Resort and the Sabra refugee camp, surrounding the latter with troops and tanks. [REDACTED]

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Israeli intentions are not clear, but Tel Aviv may be attempting to coerce the leftist Muslim militias and remaining Palestinians in West Beirut to surrender their arms. 

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-- If Israel intends to take West Beirut by force, however, it will need to move considerably more troops and armor into position or move in conjunction with the Phalange. There has been no general Phalange mobilization thus far. 

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